

1 1. A method comprising:
 2 identifying a first data element to be removed
 3 from a data stream including other data elements;
 4 writing the other elements into buffers and
 5 reading those elements from the buffers; and
 6 preventing the first data element from being read
 7 from any of said buffers.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein identifying a first
 2 data element to be removed includes identifying the
 3 location of virtual local area network tags within the data
 4 stream.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein preventing the
 2 first data element from being read from any of said buffers
 3 includes preventing said first data element from being
 4 written to any of said buffers.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein preventing the
 2 first data element from being read from any of said buffers
 3 includes writing the first data element into a buffer and
 4 then overwriting said first data element in said buffer
 5 with one of said other data elements.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein writing the other
 2 elements into buffers includes writing the other elements

3 into buffers having a size comparable to the size of said
4 first data element.

1 6. The method of claim 1 including producing a
2 contiguous uninterrupted output data stream with said first
3 data element removed.

1 7. The method of claim 1 including receiving a data
2 stream including said first data element and other data
3 elements and distributing said other data elements to a
4 plurality of buffers.

1 8. The method of claim 7 including reading said data
2 elements out of said buffers through a multiplexer to
3 generate a contiguous data stream.

1 9. The method of claim 1 including receiving a data
2 unit that includes two data elements, storing one of said
3 two data elements in a first buffer and the other of said
4 two data elements in a second buffer.

1 10. The method of claim 9 including outputting one of
2 said two data elements through a first multiplexer and
3 outputting the other of said data elements through a second
4 multiplexer.

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1 11. An article comprising a medium storing
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
3 identify a first data element to be removed from
4 a data stream to include other data elements;
5 write the other elements into buffers and read
6 those elements from the buffers; and
7 prevent the first data element from being read
8 from any of said buffers.

1 12. The article claim 11 further comprising a medium
2 storing instructions that enable a processor-based system
3 to identify the location of virtual local area network tags
4 within the data stream.

1 13. The article of claim 11 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to prevent said first data element from being
4 written to any of said buffers.

1 14. The article of claim 11 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to write the first data element into a buffer and
4 then overwrite said first data element in said buffer with
5 one of said other data elements.

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1 15. The article of claim 11 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to write the other elements into buffers having a
4 size comparable to the size of said first data element.

1 16. The article of claim 11 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to produce a contiguous uninterrupted output data
4 stream with said first data element removed.

1 17. The article of claim 11 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to receive a data stream to include said first data
4 element and other data elements and distribute said other
5 data elements to a plurality of buffers.

1 18. The article of claim 17 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to read said data elements out of said buffers
4 through a multiplexer to generate a contiguous data stream.

1 19. The article of claim 11 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to receive a data unit that includes two data
4 elements, store one of said two data elements in a first

5 buffer and the other of said two data elements in a second
6 buffer.

1 20. The article of claim 19 further comprising a
2 medium storing instructions that enable a processor-based
3 system to output one of said two data elements through a
4 first multiplexer and output the other of said data
5 elements through a second multiplexer.

1 21. A system comprising:
2 a device to receive a plurality of data elements;
3 a plurality of buffers coupled to said device;
4 and
5 a control to identify a first data element to be
6 removed from a data stream to include other data elements,
7 to write the other data elements into the buffers and read
8 those elements from the buffers, and to prevent the first
9 data element from being read from any of said buffers.

1 22. The system of claim 21 wherein said system is an
2 Ethernet adapter.

1 23. The system of claim 21 wherein said system strips
2 virtual local area network tags from said data stream.

1 24. The system of claim 21 wherein said control
2 prevents the first data element from being read from any of
3 said buffers.

1 25. The system of claim 21 wherein said control
2 writes the first data element into a first buffer of said
3 buffers and then overwrites the first data element in said
4 first buffer with one of said other data elements.

1 26. The system of claim 21 wherein said buffers have
2 a size comparable to the size of said first data element.

1 27. The system of claim 21 wherein said system
2 produces a contiguous uninterrupted output data stream with
3 said first data element removed.

1 28. The system of claim 21 including at least one
2 multiplexer coupled to said buffers to store said other
3 data elements.

1 29. The system of claim 28 including an output
2 multiplexer coupled to said buffers to generate a
3 contiguous data stream.

1 30. The system of claim 29 including a pair of output
2 multiplexers, data units received by said device being

3 separated into a least two separated data units, said
4 separated data units being output from different ones of
5 said output multiplexers.

1 31. The system of claim 21 wherein the number of
2 buffers equals the data clock size divided by the data size
3 times the quantity of one plus the number of data elements
4 to be removed.

1 32. The system of claim 21 wherein the number of
2 buffers equals the data clock size divided by the data size
3 times the quantity of two plus the number of data elements
4 to be removed.